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Title: Need to implement welfare schemes for powerloom sector in Siricilla, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the dire need to take proper steps to revive the textile industry in Siricilla, which happens to be in Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency in Andhra Pradesh.

As the Government is well aware that there are around 60000 powerlooms in Andhra Pradesh and out of it Siricilla City and its adjoining areas alone have 35000 powerlooms and the people depending on this powerloom industry do not know any other work except powerloom. Small and medium weavers of about 80% directly or indirectly are dependent on this and it is being called *Kutira Prisrama in* Telugu language. First of all, I thank the Hon'ble Minister for Textiles for recently visiting Siricilla and meeting the powerloom workers who are in depressed condition. Hon'ble Minister's sincere efforts and announcement of few welfare schemes for their empowerment have rekindled hopes among them. It is the need of the hour to take further steps without any further delay. Upgradation of powerlooms in Siricilla may be expedited upto saturation level. There is need to set up Yarn Banks in Siricilla and necessary process in this regard needs to be expedited. There is need to set up Skill Development Centres at Jammikunta and Siricilla for the powerloom and handloom workers. An Apparel Park was promised by the Hon'ble Minister during his visit to Siricilla under Special Purpose Vehicle. Steps may be expedited in this regard. Common Facility Centres should be set up with an amount of Rs. 8 crores for the welfare of powerloom and handloom industry. Insurance scheme may be implemented for the welfare of weavers. Workshed scheme may be implemented in Siricilla. Recommendation

may be made to Hon'ble Minister for Finance and also to the Union Cabinet for setting up of a Mega Textile Cluster because as we all know that the Finance Ministry plays a pivotal role in allocating and releasing the funds.

Hence, keeping in view the welfare of the powerloom workers in Siricilla, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Textiles to coordinate with Hon'ble Minister for Finance, to kindly instruct the concerned officials under your Ministry to implement the promises made by the Hon'ble Minister during his recent visit to Siricilla before the election code of conduct comes into force.